

REMARKS

Amendments

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended the claims to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Rejections

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-16, 18, and 19

Claims 1-16, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Acharya, U.S. Patent No. 6,108,453 (previously cited) and Kamei et al., U.S. Patent 5,528,698. Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Acharya and Kamei does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1-16, 18, and 19.

Kamei discloses processing a grayscale image by applying intensity mapping functions to the raw grayscale image to obtain image edge information. The image mapping function consists of performing histogram equalization on the raw image. An image edge operator characterizes the image edges using the edge information.

In independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16, Applicant claims providing edge enhancements using a brightness map comprised of luminance values extracted from the captured raw image. The Examiner admits that Acharya does not disclose providing edge enhancements using a brightness map as claimed and relies on Kamei as disclosing the claimed element. However, Kamei discloses using intensity mapping functions to provide edge information. Applicant believes Kamei's image mapping functions use histogram equalization to determine edge information as referenced in Col. 5, lines 47-55 of Kamei. Thus, Kamei cannot be properly interpreted as teaching or suggesting providing edge enhancements using a brightness map as claimed. Therefore, the combination of Acharya and Kamei cannot render obvious Applicant's claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 and claims 2-5, 7-

10, 12-16, 18, and 19 that depend from them. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination.

Claims 17 and 20

Claims 17 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Acharya, Kamei, and Lathrop et. al. US Patent No. 6,288,743 (previously cited).

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Acharya and Lathrop does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 17 and 20.

Claims 17 and 20 depend from independent claim 16. In independent claim 16, Applicant claims providing edge enhancements using a brightness map comprised of luminance values extracted from the captured raw image. As per above, neither Acharya nor Kamei teach or suggest this claim limitation. Furthermore, Lathrop is directed towards enhancing full color images and does not teach or suggest enhancing raw images. Therefore, Lathrop cannot be properly interpreted as teaching or suggesting using a brightness map for edge enhancements of raw images as claimed. Therefore, the combination cannot render obvious Applicant's invention as claimed in claim 16 and claims 17 and 20 that depend on them. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination.

SUMMARY

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Eric Replogle at (408) 720-8300.

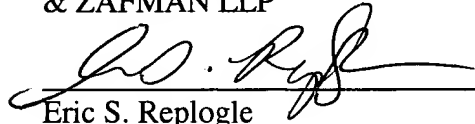
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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